
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF Declares Statewide “Vigilance for Safety”

Sacramento – Due to recent firefighter fatalities in Montana and Nevada, and the burn injuries of a CDF crew in Southern California in July, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is ordering all of its fire suppression personnel to conduct a safety review session on the mornings of Friday, August 18, 2000 and Monday, August 21, 2000.

“Beginning with a moment of silence for the fallen firefighters, from 8 A.M. to noon on Friday and the following Monday, to enable a different shift of employees to participate, our firefighting personnel will be focusing on one thing, **Safety!**” said Jim Wright, Assistant Deputy Director for Fire Protection. “Except for responding to emergencies, our firefighters will spend this four hour block of time reviewing topics such as basic fire behavior and the common denominators that were present in past accidents. We want our officers to drive this point home to their firefighters; yes, saving lives and property from wildfire is dangerous work, but safety is your number one priority.”

During this morning safety session, CDF firefighters and their chiefs will review the 18 Situations That Shout Watch Out, the Ten Standard Fire Orders, and the L.C.E.S. Safety Rules (see attached). Topics such as fire behavior, heat stress management, burn treatment, personal protective equipment, communications, physical fitness, work/rest cycles and vehicle operations will be reviewed. “I call it Vigilance for Safety,” said Chief Wright. “We simply cannot train enough on safety.”

(more)

Ten Standard Fire Orders

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on fire status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Retain control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively.

Watch Out Situations

1. Fire not scouted and sized up
2. In country not seen in daylight
3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified
4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior
5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics and hazards
6. Instructions and assignments not clear
7. No communication link with crew members/supervisors
8. Constructing line without safe anchor point
9. Building fireline downhill with fire below
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire
11. Unburned fuel between you and the fire
12. Cannot see main fire, not in contact with anyone who can
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below
14. Weather is getting hotter and drier
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction
16. Getting frequent spot fires across line
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult
18. Taking a nap near the fireline.

L.C.E.S. Safety Rules

Lookouts

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones

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